

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 14, 2007. Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 12-14 were rejected, and claims 3-5 and 9-11 were objected to. In this Amendment, claims 1, 6, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-14 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. (US 6,215,612) in view of Tsunekawa (US 6,095,447).

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito and Tsunekawa as applied to claim 7, and further in view of Suzuki et al. (US 5,992,781).

Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Suzuki.

Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims (claims 1, 6, and 12) are patentable over Saito, Tsunekawa, and Suzuki.

Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 is directed toward a recording and reproducing apparatus. The claim recites a "brake arm" having a "brake member that includes a non-circular hole for coupling to a pin on the brake arm such that the brake member is swingable about the pin with a swinging center that is movable within the hole." (See e.g., specification elements 55, 63, 64, and 65).

Neither Saito, Tsunekawa, nor Suzuki discloses a brake member that includes a non-circular hole for coupling to a pin on a brake arm such that the brake member is swingable about the pin with a swinging center that is movable within the hole. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 1 is patentable over Saito, Tsunekawa, and Suzuki - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicants believe that claims 2-5 are patentable over Saito, Tsunekawa, and Suzuki for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claim 1.

Applicants' invention as recited in claims 6 and 12 is directed toward a recording and reproducing apparatus. Each of the claims recites a brake for braking a reel, a restricting means and a release means.

Each of the claims further recites that the "restricting means continually appl[ies] a force to the [brake]," and that "the [brake is] released from restriction when a force applied by the release [means] overcomes the force applied by the restricting means." (See e.g., specification Fig. 12 elements 83, 84, 85, 90, 91, 96, and 97.)

Neither Saito, Tsunekawa, nor Suzuki discloses a restricting means that continually applies a force to a reel brake, whereby the reel brake is released from restriction when a force applied by a release means overcomes the force applied by the restricting means. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 6 and 12 are patentable over Saito, Tsunekawa, and Suzuki - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicants believe that claims 7-11, 13, and 14 are patentable over Saito, Tsunekawa, and Suzuki

for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claims 6 and 12.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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